

Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) has paid Rs. 50 crore during last October to a Mumbai based Iridium India Telecom Ltd. but the Department of Telecommunications has not yet issued licences to the IITL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for making payment in advance for purchase of equipment;

(d) whether the matter has been enquired into and the officials responsible for this apathy identified and booked; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) VSNL made a secured advance payment of Rs. 50 crores to Iridium India Telecom. Ltd. for purchase of the gateway equipment after obtaining approval from VSNL Board and after entering into MOU with IITL.

(c) to (e) The matter is being looked into. It is not possible to comment at this stage.

Telephone Factories

319. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names and locations of the departmentally run factories and units producing telephone and telecom related equipments;

(b) the total value of the out put of each of these establishments during the last three years;

(c) the details of the profits losses made by these companies during the above period;

(d) whether the Government have any plans to corporatise or privatise these units;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have any plans to modernise these units; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Following are the departmentally run Factories under DOT.

1. Telecom Factory, Bombay.
2. Telecom Factory, Alipore, Calcutta.
3. Telecom Factory, Gopalpur, Calcutta.
4. Telecom Factory, Kharagpur.
5. Telecom Factory, Wright Town, Jabalpur
6. Telecom Factory, Richhai, Jabalpur.
7. Telecom Factory, Bhilai.

(b) The total value of the output of each of these Factories during the last three years is given in the attached Statement-I

(c) Telecom Factories are departmental Factories and not Companies. Hence no profit & loss statements are prepared as done in case of PSUs. However, in order to judge the operational efficiency of the units, a proforma profit & loss statement is prepared every year. The same is placed at Statement-II for three years.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) During the past years many obsolete products have been phased out and the following new products have been productionised, as part of the modernisation programme.

- (g) 1. C.T. Boxes LSA Plus
2. D.P. Boxes with LSA Plus Modules.
3. Pay Phone (CBT-95).
4. 15 and 40 metres Mast for MARR System.
5. Line Jack Units.
6. MDF for C-DOT Exchanges.
7. Repair of Telephone Instruments and C-DOT Cards.
8. Modems.
9. Electronic Relay Plates for Trunk Exchanges.
10. Triangular Tubular Hybrid Towers.

Statement-I*Total value of the output of the Factories*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Units	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1.	Bombay	26.27	43.26	41.44
2.	Alipore, Cal	47.04	55.72	55.97
3.	Gopalpur Cal			
4.	*Kharagpur	2.43	2.98	2.51
5.	Wright Town Jabalpur	37.15	41.04	44.04
6.	Richhai, Jabalpur	20.50	16.00	27.05
7.	Bhilai	6.27	8.43	10.27
Total		139.66	167.43	181.28

* Telecom Factory at Gopalpur, Calcutta was set up in 1995-96

Statement-II*Statement of Profit/Loss in Telecom Factories*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Unit	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Bombay	(-) 27	(-) 354	(-) 665
2.	Alipore, Cal.	104	271	(-) 530
3.	Gopalpur, Cal.			
4.	Kharagpur	Not yet prepared	Not yet prepared	Not yet prepared
5.	Wright Town, Jabalpur	117	413	591
6.	Richhai, Jabalpur	115	07	124
7.	Bhilai	55	26	12

Notes :

1. The reason for losses by Telecom Factory, Bombay is mainly due to non-receipt of acknowledged challans for the stores supplied to various store depot and the wages paid to idle work force. It is added that there are 333 idle work force in Telecom Factory, Bombay.

2. The reason for losses shown against Telecom Factory, Calcutta during 1995-96 is mainly on account of challenging rates for Mests & IJU being less than the estimated rates and the wages paid to idle work force. It is added that there are 209 idle work force in Telecom Factory Calcutta as on 1.4.96.

[English]

Amount Spent on Publicity

320. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the money spent on making publicity through various newspapers to apprise the rail users about opening of new Railway Zone, inauguration of newly converted rail lines and introduction of Rajdhani, Shatabdi trains, etc. July, 1994 till date;

(b) the money spent during the said period on publicity to inform the rail users about the cancellation, diversion and change in the arrival/departure timings and the routes of the trains;

(c) the specific reasons for negligible or nil amount of money spent on informing the rail users about frequent cancellation, diversion and change in the routes of the trains putting them to great hardships particularly like losing the opportunities of taking examinations and attending the interviews; and

(d) the number and nature of complaints received by the Government about the sudden cancellation and diversion, etc. of the trains without informing the rail users ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Setting up of Post Office/Sub P.O.

321. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for setting up of Post Office/sub-post office in Metropolitan areas;

(b) whether the Saket, New Delhi-17 area fulfil the required conditions for setting up of a Post office/sub post office; and